

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device including:
 - ~~receiving~~ intercepting client data a print job directed to the print device from the client before it reaches a print communication protocol module;
 - distinguishing in the intercepted print job raw page description language data from other client data;
 - determining if the raw page description language includes a request which requires the attention of a specific interpreter and a temporary realignment of job management; and
 - processing the request before returning the print job to the print communication protocol module.
2. (Original) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 1, wherein the step of distinguishing raw page description language data includes:
 - accessing a page description language dictionary.
3. (Original) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 1, wherein the step of processing the request includes:
 - determining that the request is a font download;
 - specifying an appropriate page description language interpreter;
 - engaging an available page description language interpreter;
 - creating a direct path for streaming multiple documents through the protocol module to the page description language interpreter; and
 - opening a back channel between the print communication protocol module and the page description language interpreter.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 1, wherein the method further includes:
parsing a print query from the ~~client data~~intercepted print job;
interpreting the query with a query processing language dictionary;
retrieving the answer from a data store; and
sending the answer to the client before returning the print job to the print communication protocol module.

5. (Original) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 4, wherein the step of retrieving the answer from a data store includes:
updating the data store dynamically from a page description language interpreter.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 1, wherein the method further includes:
routing selected ~~client data~~ from the print job to the print communication protocol module; and
processing other selected ~~client data~~ from the print module and while bypassing the print communication protocol module.

7. (Currently Amended) In a document producing system including a client in data communication with a job-based print device through a print communication protocol module, an interface which processes client data comprising:

a query ~~parser~~processor that intercepts client data directed to the print device from the client, detects a query in the intercepted client data, and routes the query to be answered, and returns an answer to the query to the client, prior to the client data reaching the print communication protocol module;

a raw page description language data parser that receives non-query client data from the query parser, detects raw data and processes select raw data;
and

a font enabler that establishes an open channel to the print device bypassing the communication protocol module if the detected raw data includes a font download.

8. (Original) The document producing system of claim 7, wherein the interface further includes:

a query module that interprets the query routed from the query parser;
and

an answer module that locates an answer to the query and forward the answer to the client.

9. (Original) The document producing system of claim 7, wherein the interface further includes:

a spooling module that queues a plurality of client data for processing by one or more page description language interpreters.

10. (Original) The document producing system of claim 7, wherein the interface further includes:

a page description language dictionary that has portions of a page description language for reference by the raw data parser.

11. (Original) The document producing system of claim 7, wherein the interface further includes:

a job parser that detects print data in the client data and routes the print data to be examined for cover page data.

12. (Original) The document producing system of claim 11, wherein the interface further includes:

a cover page parser that examines print data for cover page data and routes the cover page and non-cover page data;

a user data module that gleans user data from print data that is not cover page data and returns the user data to the communication protocol module;
and

a cover page module that modifies job flow through the document producing system to introduce and handle a cover page document.

13. (Original) The document producing system of claim 7, wherein the interface further includes:

a configuration parser that detects and routes configuration requests in the client data.

14. (Original) The document producing system of claim 13, wherein the interface further includes:

a configuration server which reconfigures targeted network settings according to configuration requests.

15. (Currently Amended) A method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device, wherein the client is in data communication with the print device via a print communication protocol module, the method including the steps of:

receivingintercepting client data directed to the print device from the client before the client data reaches the print communication protocol module;

examining the intercepted client data for a configuration request;

configuring a print communication protocol module on a print device targeted by the configuration request;

if no configuration request is present, determining if client data includes a font download; and

processing the font download.

16. (Original) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 15, wherein the step of configuring the print communication protocol module includes:

identifying the configuration message;

sending the configuration request to a configuration server;

disabling the print protocol on a print device affected by the configuration message;

changing settings for a print protocol module on the print device to match a configuration requested by the configuration message;
enabling the print protocol module on the print device with the changed settings; and
restarting job processing.

17. (Original) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 15, wherein the step of processing the font download includes:
disengaging a spooling module to reconfigure job data flow to a page description language interpreter;
engaging the page description language interpreter once it becomes available; and
opening a back channel to the print communication protocol module.

18. (Original) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 15, wherein the method further includes:
parsing print queries from other client data; and
processing the print queries.

19. (Original) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 18, wherein the step of processing print queries includes:
accessing the query in a standard query processing language dictionary;
interpreting the query with the standard query processing language dictionary;
obtaining the location of an answer to the query from the dictionary;
retrieving the answer from a data store; and
sending the answer to the client.

20. (Original) The method of interfacing a client with a job-based print device of claim 15, wherein the method further includes:
deciding if the client data is print data;
determining if the print data is cover page data;
tagging a print job that has cover page data;

sending the cover page data to the print communication protocol module;

preparing a new document for primary job data following receipt of cover page data;

gleaning user data from incoming print data that is not cover page data;

placing user data that is not print data into a print job context description; and

returning data flow to the print communication protocol module.